



# ***BLM News***

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## **Public comment begins today on expenditure of Southern Nevada land sale funds**

**Las Vegas** -- The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is seeking public comment on environmentally sensitive lands nominated for acquisition in the sixth round of expenditures of funds raised through the BLM's Las Vegas land auctions. The comment period for land nominations begins today and runs through January 21, 2005.

Following this public comment period, the nominations will be evaluated and a preliminary recommendation developed, after which a 60-day public comment period will begin.

Public comments can be submitted directly to: BLM Las Vegas Field Office, Land Sales and Acquisitions Division, 4701 North Torrey Pines Drive, Las Vegas NV 89130.

Information on lands nominated for federal purchase is available at [www.nv.blm.gov/SNPLMA](http://www.nv.blm.gov/SNPLMA). The webpage has information on the act including previous auction results and recent expenditures of the funds. Copies of the nomination packages are available for viewing at the BLM Las Vegas Field Office, the BLM Nevada State Office in Reno, and the BLM Field Offices in Carson City, Winnemucca, Elko and Cedarville, Calif. For questions about the nominations, call 702-515-5114.

Four of the nominated parcels are in Clark County, seven are in Washoe County, and one parcel each in Douglas, Elko and Humboldt counties.

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*SNPLMA comments on sensitive land*

An opportunity for the public to comment in person on the nominations during the 30-day public comment period is being hosted by the BLM's Mojave Southern Resource Advisory Council January 20, 2005, at 11 a.m. in the Red Rock Canyon Visitor's Center. The Resource Advisory Council members are appointed by the Secretary of the Interior to advise the BLM on public lands issues. A BLM presentation on the preliminary recommendation for land purchases will precede the 11 a.m. public comment opportunity on January 20.

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Under the authority of the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) of 1998, the BLM is mandated to sell land in the greater Las Vegas Valley. The proceeds of the land auctions are used to fund projects in Clark County and to acquire environmentally sensitive lands throughout Nevada with priority on lands in Clark County.

So far the BLM has raised over \$1 billion by auctioning off 8,142 acres of public land located in the Las Vegas Valley to the highest bidder. Ten percent of the money raised goes to the Southern Nevada Water Authority for infrastructure requirements, five percent goes to the State of Nevada General Education Fund and 85 percent is retained by the Secretary of the Interior for projects and land acquisitions in Southern Nevada.